



CITY OF LODI

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE: Specifications and Advertisement for Bids for Automatic Watthour Meter Test System

MEETING DATE: December 15, 1999

PREPARED BY: Electric Utility Director

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the City Council approve the specifications and authorize advertisement for bids for one Automatic Watthour Meter Test System.

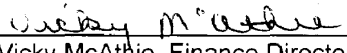
BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The City's meter test set, purchased in 1981, is designed to test meters of the electromechanical type and requires the presence of a rotating disc to perform the test accurately. Electromechanical meters, for meter classes other than residential and small commercial customers, are no longer manufactured and has been replaced with solid state technology.

It is anticipated that within the next three to five years solid state meters will be the only economical alternative in all meter classes. The City at present must test solid state meters by relying on the meter tester's eye-hand coordination to manually enter the number of simulated disc revolutions into the test equipment. This process introduces a significant error into the test especially when many of these meters are installed on large commercial and industrial customers having a large meter multiplier which in turn will magnify (multiply) any error introduced in the testing of the meter. The present meter test set also requires manually wiring for the type of meter to be tested. In addition the operator must log all test data on test reports.

The meter test system specified here is computer driven, it automatically configures the test set to the type of meter to be tested, can test any meter manufactured today well within prescribed accuracy limits and generates (prints) a complete report of the test. These features eliminate the chance of operator error and reduce labor costs associated with the test. It is estimated that the test time per meter can be reduced by up to 50% with a computer driven test set. This reduction in time spend on each meter test will permit the Meter Section to maintain the testing schedule of the continually increasing population of meters and concurrently address other assignments placed on the Section without increasing staff. The Department has approximately 25,000 meters in service.

Bid Opening: Wednesday, January 19, 2000.

FUNDING: Included in the 1999-2000 Fiscal Year Financial Plan and Budget (Page E 22)
Estimated Cost: \$40,000

Funding Approval: 
Vicky McAthie, Finance Director


Alan N. Vallow
Electric Utility Director

PREPARED BY: Hans Hansen, Manager, Engineering and Operations
ANV/HH/1st
C: City Attorney Purchasing Officer

Note: Plans and specifications are on file in the Electric Utility Department.

APPROVED: 

H. Dixon Flynn - City Manager